



NNSA Policy Letter: BOP-10.001

Date: July 14, 2005

TITLE: Business and Operating Policy for the Conduct of the Annual Assessment of the National Nuclear Stockpile

- I. OBJECTIVE: To issue business and operating guidance whereby the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will execute its responsibilities in conducting the joint Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense (DoD) Annual Stockpile Assessment Process.
- II. BACKGROUND:
 - A. The Nuclear Weapons Council Standing and Safety Committee (NWCSSC) memorandum regarding Annual Stockpile Certification, dated June 11, 1996, (Annual Stockpile Certification memorandum), provided the original policy and guidance for implementation of the Annual Stockpile Assessment Process developed by DoD and DOE to provide a status report to the President on the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile and to address the question of whether underground nuclear testing was required to resolve any safety or reliability issues. Over the intervening years, the process as described in the Annual Stockpile Certification memorandum has evolved based on coordination between DoD and DOE effected in the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) and NWCSSC or their staff.
 - B. Starting with the 2003 assessment cycle, Congress provided specific guidance, milestones and deliverables for the annual stockpile assessment process. Section 3141 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, (Public Law 107-314) (Section 3141) codified key aspects of the existing Annual Stockpile Assessment Process and added a number of additional requirements for its scope and conduct.
 - C. NNSA's role in the Annual Stockpile Assessment Process, described below, is one of assisting the Secretary of Energy in the execution of his requirements, and oversight of the required work performed at the national security laboratories.

- D. The NWC has responsibilities for oversight of DOE nuclear weapons activity and resolution of nuclear weapons issues as the interface between the two departments for the military application of nuclear energy. The NWC will continue its involvement in the Annual Stockpile Assessment process as described by section 3141 and as represented in the attachment.
- E. The attachment reflects the Annual Stockpile Assessment Process as it is currently performed by DoD and NNSA.

III. APPLICABILITY: All Federal NNSA elements participating in the Annual Stockpile Assessment Process.

IV. REQUIREMENTS:

- A. The Annual Stockpile Assessment Process described by References A and B. results in the generation of a number of reports and documents. Those for which NNSA has primary responsibility include:
 - 1. An Annual Assessment Report (AAR) for each warhead/bomb type in the stockpile to assess its safety, reliability, and performance. NNSA tasks the national security laboratories to produce these reports, provides the resources required, monitors their preparation, and assists in their coordination with external organizations (such as the Service Project Officer Groups).
 - 2. A letter report on these assessments from the head of each national security laboratory to be provided to the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Defense, and the NWC by December 1 of each year. The heads of each national security laboratory are also directed in Reference B to specifically comment on a number of issues related to the results of these assessments, including their determination as to whether or not one or more underground nuclear tests are necessary to resolve any issues identified in the assessments. These reports are typically referred to as the Laboratory Director Letter Reports. NNSA tasks the national security laboratories to produce these letter reports by the required date and provides the resources to do so.
- B. NNSA also supports the preparation of other documents and reports that are generated as a part of the Annual Stockpile Assessment Process. These include:
 - 1. The STRATCOM Commander's (COMSTRAT) Annual Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Assessment. This document is similar to the letter reports submitted by the heads of the national security laboratories